

## REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and 12 have been amended.

Claim 4 is objected to. The Examiner requests that "no change is the data pattern" should read --no change is made in the data pattern--. Applicant has made the change requested by the Examiner, as it is believed that the changed claim has the same meaning as the claim as previously presented. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Miller et al, U.S. 5,731,823. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller et al in view of Rylander, U.S. 5,602,572. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller et al in view of Rylander, as applied to claims 2 and 8, and further in view of Mizutani, U.S. 5,774,146. Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller et al in view of Albosta, U.S. 4,908,638.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

In the Examiner's remarks related to applicant's prior response to the previous office action, the Examiner takes the position that the lower density data pattern and the single pass recording method implementation as currently claimed, may be performed at different times.

While applicant respectfully believes that the distinction was clear in the claims as originally presented, independent claim 1 is amended to clarify this point, by the addition of the language that the recording method is performed while operating in a single pass recording mode. Claim 7 is amended to recite "in a single pass recording mode". Claims 6 and 12 are amended so as to conform their reference to their respective parent claims with the amendments to the parent claims.

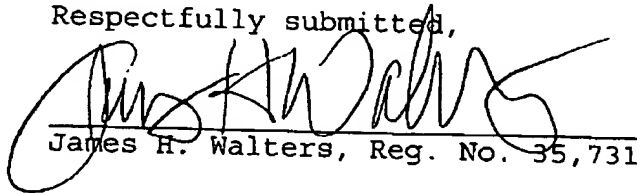
As stated before in the prior response to the previous office action Miller et al, whether taken alone or whether combined with the documents cited and relied on by the Examiner, does not teach or suggest applicant's claims. Miller et al are concerned with multi-pass recording and shingling to reduce color bleed. As noted before, this multi-pass mode results in a degraded recording speed, since each line or band of print must be made multiple times.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are therefore allowable.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Please contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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## MARKUP SHEETS SHOWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN

1. (Twice Amended) An ink jet recording method which receives a command and data which indicate a drawing of a thick line or a filled-in area, analyzes the command and the data by an interpreter, converts vector data of the thick line or the filled-in area into raster data based on a given data pattern after the analysis, and, based on the raster data, ejects ink droplets while moving a recording head over a recording medium with a plurality of ink ejection nozzles arranged thereon, said method comprising the steps of:

before converting to the raster data, checking by said interpreter whether the data pattern indicates solid-drawing in each of the thick line or the filled-in area for which the drawing is indicated; and

if the data pattern specified to a particular thick line or filled-in area indicates solid-drawing, changing the data pattern for that particular thick line or filled-in area to a lower-density pattern, thereby preventing an ink splash during printing,

wherein said recording method is performed while operating said recording head in a single pass recording mode.

4. (Twice Amended) The ink jet recording method according to claim 1 wherein if a thickness of a given thick line is smaller than a predetermined thickness no change is made in the

data pattern for the given thick line even if the data pattern indicates solid-drawing.

6. (Amended) The ink jet recording method according to claim 1 wherein [a] said single pass recording mode comprises a method in which one band of an image is recorded in one head movement of the recording head [is used], said one band corresponding to a width of a recording portion of said recording head.

7. (Twice Amended) An ink jet recording device comprising:  
an interpreter for analyzing a command and data which  
indicate a drawing of a thick line or a filled-in area;

means for converting vector data of the thick line or the filled-in area into raster data based on a given data pattern after the analysis by the interpreter; and

a recording head for ejecting ink droplets, based on the raster data, while moving over a recording medium in a single pass recording mode with a plurality of ink ejection nozzles arranged thereon,

wherein said interpreter includes a pattern changing means for checking whether the data pattern indicates solid-drawing in each of the thick line or the filled-in area for which the drawing is indicated and, if the solid-drawing is indicated, changing the data pattern for the thick line or filled-in area to a lower-density pattern.

12. (Amended) The ink jet recording device according to claim 7 wherein [a] said single pass recording mode comprises a method in which one band of an image is recorded in one band movement of the recording head, said one band corresponding to a width of a recording portion of said recording head.